



Headwaters Sportsman's Association
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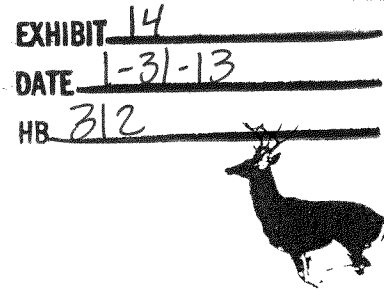


EXHIBIT 14
DATE 1-31-13
HB 312

Headwaters Sportsman' Association, a large hunter-angler group based in Gallatin County, provides the following points of concern related to House Bill 312.

- This bill appears to be almost an exact replica of HB 237 from the 2011 session, a bill opposed by all hunter groups, and eventually vetoed. Since then, much has been done by the Elk-Brucellosis working group to address the concerns and try to find collaborative ways to mitigate the effects of brucellosis in elk and other wildlife.
- HB 312 places the financial burden on hunters to fund efforts related to this bill. These are not costs that were introduced to the landscape by hunters, therefore asking them, via FWP, to fund the actions of this bill are completely disingenuous, further lessening the important support hunters can give to the brucellosis issue.
- This bill asks hunters to fund a reduction in the number of elk. Hunters get fewer elk and an invoice for the costs. Other states have spent millions on similar efforts, with no noticeable improvement. The elk-brucellosis working group has asked for local landscape level education and involvement from all concerned citizens. This bill is divisive, fiscally irresponsible, and damaging to sportsman, with sportsmen being the greatest ally of the livestock producer on the topic of brucellosis.
- To address the brucellosis issue collaborative effort is needed among all groups, livestock producers, hunters, and other affected citizens. This is being done by the elk-brucellosis working group.
- Activist legislation that directs all costs on sportsmen completely undermines the collaborative efforts we are seeing toward brucellosis management. Hunters and livestock producers can and will work together if given the opportunity.
- This type of legislation does nothing beneficial to the effort of managing brucellosis, only **making it more difficult for hunting leaders to convince their members of the value in joining with livestock producers to work toward better management and funding for brucellosis issues.**

We strongly oppose HB 312 and ask that you do not support this bill.

